

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 OUAGAD 02327 301148Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01
/071 W

-----012124 301153Z /75

O 301100Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7123
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T OUAGADOUGOU 2327

Z.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: XA, CU, UR, MPOL

SUBJECT:DISOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA

REF: STATE 134913

1. ALTHOUGH GOUV OFFICIALS ARE NOT LIKELY TO TAKE THE LEAD
PUBLIABH IN CONDEMNING SOVIET AND CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN
AFRICA, THEY ARE NOT SHY ABOUT EXPRESSING THIR VIEWS IN
PRIVATE. BOTH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AND FOREIGN MINISTER
KARGOUGOU HAVE OFTEN MENTIONED TO ME THEIR FEARS THAT SOVIET
AND CUBAN INFLUENCR IS GROWING IN AFRICA AND THAT, IN THE
ABSENCE OF A WESTERN RESPONSE, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT
EVERY OPPORTUNITY THAT COMES THEIR WAY. OTHER MINISTERS
HAVE EXPRESSED SIMILAR FEARS.

2. THE SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA IS SEEN HERE BY
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS ONE OF ATTEMPTING TO BRING DOWN
MODERATE GOVERNMENTS WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY OCCURS
AND REPLACING THEM BY PRO-SOVIET REGIMES. THEY
BELIEVE THAT THE OAU AND AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS IN GENERAL
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SECRET

PAGE 02 OUAGAD 02327 301148Z

ARE POWERLESS TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION AND THAT
THE UNITED STATES IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN A POSITION TO THE SOVIETS
AND CUBANS OUT OF AFRICA. ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING PUBLICLY THE OAU LINE
THAT
AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY AFRICANS, THEY
APPLAUD IN PRIVATE THE FRENCH, BLEGIAN, AND MOROCCAN
INTERVENTIONS IN ZAIRE AND DEPLORE THE U.S. FAILURE TO

INTERVENE IN THE AGOLAN CIVIL WAR. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THEY
CONSIDER THAT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IS A DIVISIVE
ISSUE AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES.GRAHAM

SECRET

NNN

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